

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 3-16 and 18-26 will be pending. Claim 25 stands withdrawn from consideration. Claims 27-33 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to pursue one or more of these canceled claims in one or more continuations or divisionals hereof.

Claim 26 is amended to replace "past" with "through." Support for this amendment can be found, *inter alia*, in paragraphs [0048], [0064], and [0065] of the specification as published. See United States pat. app. pub. no. 2004/0143256 (July 22, 2004). Claims 3-6, 8, 12-16, 18-21, and 23-25 are amended to depend from claim 26 and for consistency of terminology. No new matter is introduced.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claim 26. Applicant submits that the amendments to claim 26 herein do not change the allowability thereof. Applicant further submits that the remaining amendments place the application in condition for allowance, insofar as all pending claims now depend directly or indirectly from allowable claim 26. As such, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments herein and allowance of the instant application.

Applicant has reviewed the Office action, including the Examiner's remarks and the references cited therein. Applicant submits that the following remarks are fully responsive to the Office action, and that all pending claims are patentable over the cited references.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

All rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are moot in view of the amendments to the claims herein.

Remarks Concerning Withdrawn Claims

In view of the allowance of claim 26, Applicant respectfully requests the rejoinder and allowance of withdrawn claim 25 depending therefrom.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and requests that all rejections be withdrawn, that all pending claims be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue. If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application to be in other than condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in an effort to resolve any matter still outstanding before issuing another action.

Applicant submits that no extension of time is necessary for this paper to be considered timely. Should any extension of time be deemed necessary, Applicant hereby petitions therefor under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

Authorization is hereby granted to charge any fees due with the filing of this document, including any fees for any extensions of time deemed necessary, to Deposit Account No. 50-1129 with reference to Attorney Docket No. 0B-044401US/82410-0053.

Respectfully submitted,

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